

**PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF
MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378 (c))**

Docket Number (Optional)

31941/30001

Mail to: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Fax: (571) 273-8300

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

Patent No. 6,170,178 Application Number 09/320,669
Issue Date January 9, 2001 Filing Date May 27, 1999

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number (or reissue patent number, if a reissue) and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application (or reissue application) leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

Also complete the following information, if applicable

The above – identified patent

☐

Is a reissue of original Patent No. _____ original issue date _____

original application number _____

original filing date _____

☐

resulted from the entry into the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application _____

filed on _____

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.89(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Date

Signature

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

1. SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

2. LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☒ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

3. MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition, unless it was paid earlier.

| NOT Small Entity | | | Small Entity | | |
|---|---------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Amount | Fee | (Code) | Amount | Fee | (Code) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | 3 1/2 yr fee | (1551) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | 3 1/2 yr fee | (2551) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | 7 1/2 yr fee | (1552) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | 7 1/2 yr fee | (2552) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 4,810.00 | 11 1/2 yr fee | (1553) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | 11 1/2 yr fee | (2553) |

MAINTENANCE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 4,810.00

4. SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) of \$ 1,890.00 (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee.

SURCHARGE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 1,890.00

5. MANNER OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is a check for the sum of \$ _____

☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2855 the sum of \$ 4,810.00

☒ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

6. AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ANY FEE DEFICIENCY

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any maintenance fee, surcharge or petition deficiency to Deposit Account No. 13-2855

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

7. OVERPAYMENT

As to any overpayment made please

- OR ☒ Credit to Deposit Account No. 13-2855
- ☐ Send refund check

WARNING:

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identify theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

8. STATEMENT

The delay in payment of the maintenance fee to this patent was unintentional.

9. PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

David J. Brule II
Signature(s) of Petitioner(s)

1/11/2013

Date

David J. Brule II

Typed or printed name(s)

Registration Number, if applicable

906-776-3513

Telephone Number

1819 N. Stephenson Ave.

Address

Iron Mountain, Michigan 49801

Address

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

ENCLOSURES

- ☒ Maintenance Fee Payment
- ☒ Surcharge under 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (fee for filing the maintenance fee petition)
- ☐

ASSIGNMENT

Patent No: 6,170,178
 Issued: January 9, 2001
 Title: POWERED QUICK ATTACH SNOWPLOW

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned hereby assign to NORTHERN STAR INDUSTRIES, INC., 1819 N. Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain, Michigan 49801 (hereinafter "Assignee"), its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the invention or improvements of the undersigned disclosed in United States Patent No. 6,170,178 and any and all other applications, both in the United States and in other countries, which the undersigned may file or be named as an inventor, either solely or jointly with others, on said invention or improvements, and in any and all letters patent of the United States and other countries, which may be obtained on any of said applications, and in any reissue or extension thereof. The undersigned further convey, transfer, and assign to Assignee the undersigned's right(s), privilege(s) and interest(s) to claim priority benefit of any of the applications described above; to apply for and obtain patents in the name of the undersigned or the name of Assignee; and the rights to bring suit, claim, and retain any damages or other remedies for infringement (including past infringement) of any of the applications or patents described above.

The undersigned hereby authorize and request the Commissioner for Patents to issue said letters patent to said Assignee.

The undersigned hereby authorize and request that the attorneys of record in said application insert in this assignment the execution date and/or filing date and serial number of said application when officially known.

The undersigned warrant themselves to be the owners of the interest herein assigned and to have the right to make this assignment and further warrant that there are no outstanding prior assignments, licenses, or other rights in the interest herein assigned except in favor of Assignee.

The above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by the undersigned, and the undersigned believes himself or herself to be the original inventor or an original joint inventor of the invention claimed in the above-identified application.

For said consideration the undersigned hereby agree, upon the request and at the expense of said Assignee, its successors and assigns, to execute any and all applications on said invention or improvements, and any necessary oath or affidavit relating thereto, and any application for the reissue or extension of any letters patent that may be granted upon any and all of said applications, and any and all applications and other documents for letters patent in other countries on said invention or improvements, that said Assignee, its successors or assigns, may deem necessary or expedient, and for said consideration the undersigned further agree upon the request of said Assignee, its successors or assigns, in the event of any application or letters patent assigned herein becoming involved in Interference or Opposition, to cooperate to the best of the ability of the undersigned with said Assignee, its successors or assigns, in the matters of preparing and executing the preliminary statement and giving and producing evidence in support thereof, the undersigned hereby agreeing to perform, upon request, any and all affirmative acts to obtain said letters patent, both in the United States and in other countries, and vest all rights therein hereby conveyed in said

Assignee, its successors and assigns, whereby said letters patent will be held and enjoyed by said Assignee, its successors and assigns, to the full end of the term for which said letters patent may be granted as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the undersigned if this assignment and sale had not been made.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that any willful false statement made in this document is punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both.

Date:

1/11/2013

Signature:

Jody Christy

On behalf of the Assignee, the undersigned (a duly-authorized representative of Assignee) hereby confirms the Assignee's acceptance of all rights, privileges and interests conveyed by this Assignment.

Date:

1/11/2013

David J. Byrle, II
Name: David J. Byrle, II

Title: President

For: NORTHERN STAR INDUSTRIES, INC